

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A An identity card comprising:
first and second opposite major surfaces and a perimeter edge surface, at least one of the major surfaces including card holder information, and at least one communication marking provided on at least a portion of the perimeter edge surface to enable the card to be tracked within card processing equipment, wherein the communication marking is formed from non-visible ink.
2. (Original) The card of claim 1, wherein the perimeter edge surface comprises a top edge surface, and the communication marking is provided on at least a portion of the top edge surface.
3. (Original) The card of claim 1, comprising a plurality of the communication markings.
4. (Original) The card of claim 3, wherein the communication markings comprise a bar code.
5. (Original) The card of claim 1, wherein the communication marking comprises a number, a letter, or a symbol.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) The card of claim 1 6, wherein the non-visible ink comprises UV or IR ink.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) An identity document, comprising:

first and second opposite major surfaces and a perimeter edge surface, at least one of the major surfaces including information relating to the intended holder of the identity document, and at least one communication marking provided on at least a portion of the perimeter edge surface to enable the identity document to be tracked within identity document processing equipment, and the communication marking being formed from a non-visible ink.

11. (Original) The identity document of claim 10, wherein the perimeter edge surface comprises a top edge surface, and the communication marking is provided on at least a portion of the top edge surface of the perimeter edge surface.

12. (Currently amended) The identity document of claim 10, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising a communication marking is provided on at least a portion of the first major surface.

13. (Original) The identity document of claim 10, comprising a plurality of the communication markings.

14. (Original) The identity document of claim 13, wherein the communication markings comprise a bar code.

15. (Original) The identity document of claim 10, wherein the communication marking comprises a number, a letter, or a symbol.

16. (Original) The identity document of claim 10, wherein the non-visible ink comprises UV or IR ink.

17. (Original) The identity document of claim 10, wherein the document comprises a card ~~containing card holder information~~ or a passport.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A method of verifying and tracking an identity card document in equipment that is used to process identity cards, the equipment including an input that holds a plurality of identity cards to be processed and at least one piece of card processing equipment configured to perform a processing operation on the identity cards, comprising:

picking an identity card from the input;

prior to processing the picked identity card in the piece of card processing equipment, reading a communication marking provided ~~forming at least one communication marking~~ on at least a portion of a perimeter edge surface of the identity card document;

determining, based on reading the communication marking, whether the picked identity card is the expected identity card; and

if the picked identity card is the expected identity card, processing the picked identity card in the piece of card processing equipment.

~~reading the communication marking; and~~

~~based on the reading, determining whether the identity document is the proper document.~~

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, ~~wherein the identity document comprises a plastic card, and~~ comprising reading the communication marking while the card is in the input prior to picking. ~~within an input hopper of card processing equipment.~~

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, ~~wherein the identity document comprises a plastic card, and~~ comprising reading the communication marking after the card has been picked from the input. ~~within a card processing module of a modular card processing system.~~

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, comprising reading the communication marking as part of a determination as to whether the card is to be affixed to, ~~or has been properly affixed to,~~ a mailer form.

28. (Currently amended) A reader for reading a communication marking provided on at least a portion of a perimeter edge surface of a card, comprising:

a housing;

a slot formed in the housing defining a card path along which at least a portion of the card, including the perimeter edge surface containing the communication marking, can travel;

a reading area defined in the slot at which the communication marking can be read;

a first channel intersecting the slot at the reading area at an acute angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the slot;

a light source ~~providing light~~ positioned in the first channel to provide light to the reading area; and

a light receiver ~~sensing light~~ positioned to sense light that has been reflected from the perimeter edge surface.

29. (Original) The reader of claim 28, wherein the light source is an ultraviolet light source providing ultraviolet light.

30. (Original) The reader of claim 29, wherein the light receiver is an ultraviolet light sensor.

31. (New) The reader of claim 29, further comprising a second channel intersecting the slot at the reading area, wherein light that has been reflected from the perimeter edge surface enters the second channel, and the second channel has an axis that is disposed generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the slot.

32. (New) A card processing system, comprising:
an input that holds a plurality of identity cards to be processed, each card having first and second opposite major surfaces, a perimeter edge surface and at least one communication marking provided on at least a portion of the perimeter edge surface;
at least one piece of card processing equipment configured to perform a processing operation on the cards; and
a reader for reading the communication marking provided on the perimeter edge surface of each card.

33. (New) The card processing system of claim 32, wherein the reader is positioned to read the communication marking on each card while each card is within the input.

34. (New) The card processing system of claim 32, wherein the reader is positioned to read the communication marking on each card after each card has left the input.

35. (New) The card processing system of claim 32, comprising a plurality of pieces of card processing equipment, each piece of equipment is configured to perform a different card processing operation.

36. (New) The card processing system of claim 35, comprising a reader associated with each piece of card processing equipment.

37. (New) The card processing system of claim 32, wherein the card processing equipment comprises a magnetic stripe encoder, a printer, a laser, an embosser, a device for programming an integrated circuit chip, or a mechanism to attach the cards to forms.